

LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6/19/99
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SUBJECT: Meeting with Association of Home Appliance
Manufacturers (AHAM)
DATE OF MEETING: April 6, 1999
PLACE: CPSC Headquarters
Bethesda, MD
LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Jacqueline Elder, ^{JE} EXHR
DATE OF ENTRY: May 13, 1999

CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY
1999 MAY 17 P .

COMMISSION ATTENDEES

Jacqueline Elder, EXHR
George Rutherford, EH
Marc Schoem, CA

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES

Wayne Morris, AHAM
Chuck Samuels, AHAM
Heather Paul, National SAFE KIDS Campaign
Mandy Taft, National SAFE KIDS Campaign

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

CPSC staff requested the meeting to discuss the suffocation hazard to children presented by old, chest-style freezers. Jacquie Elder began the meeting by indicating that staff is concerned because CPSC continues to get reports of deaths involving children trapped in chest-style freezers. George Rutherford summarized the data and noted that since 1980 there have been 30 deaths to children under age 10, 11 of them since 1991. These 30 deaths occurred in 18 incidents. The deaths generally occurred in old freezers that were abandoned or, in some cases, still used in the home for storage. AHAM indicated that since 1969 all the manufacturers have met a UL standard that requires that freezers can be opened from the inside.

Heather Paul encouraged AHAM to work with its members and offer a rebate, in the form of a coupon for purchase of a new product, if consumers turned in old freezers. CPSC staff strongly supported this concept. AHAM indicated reluctance to pursue this approach, but agreed to talk with their members and get back to CPSC. AHAM expressed interest in possibly developing a new brochure on freezers or revising their refrigerator brochure to emphasize freezers.

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